

Appln. No. 09/696,114
Amendment dated January 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The October 5, 2004 Final Office Action and the December 10, 2004 Advisory Action have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-141, 144 and 149-167 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner recites deficiencies in claims 124 and 150. In response, claims 124 and 150 are amended in a sincere effort to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

In view of the amendment of claims 124 and 150, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 103

In the Office Action claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139, 140, 142, 144, 145 and 147-167 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 4,839,829 (Freedman) in view USP 6,233,684 (Stefik et al.). Claims 141, 162 and 164 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Freedman and Stefik et al., and further in view of USP 6,131,162 (Yoshiyura et al.).

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Freedman teaches a user providing (via an input section) a print specification to a printer and the printer performing an operation based on said specification.

In response, claim 124 is amended to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited references.

In the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124, a print service station is connected to the network and has a print section which comprises an input section, an image reading section to read an image of a document, and an image forming section as shown in Fig. 15. As described on page 154, lines 5-14 and page 94 lines 7-12, the print service station (printer-client 40) is installed at a place such as a convenience store or a library to where a user carries a document and makes a copy of the document. Further, at the place, the user operates the input

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section to input a print order of the user to print a copy of an ordered book and makes a copy of the ordered book.

A feature of the present claimed invention is to use a print service station installed at a place such as a convenience store or a library which functions as a book publishing station. Therefore, a user provides a document to the place and makes a copy of the document at the place. As a result, a user can make a copy of a desired book at the place without carrying the book to the place.

In Freedman, as illustrated in Fig. 1A thereof, a user facility and a printer facility are connected through a network. That is, Freedman teaches a user facility independent from a printer facility. In other words, Freedman does not disclose, teach or suggest the print service station of the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124.

As shown in Fig. 16, Stefik et al. teach using a consumer workstation connected with a print store through a publisher and a network. Stefik et al. do not, therefore, disclose, teach or suggest the print service station of the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124.

Accordingly, since neither Freedman nor Stefik et al. teach the feature of the present claimed invention to use a print service station installed at a place such as a convenience store

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or a library which functions as a book publishing station, even if Freedman and Stefik et al. are taken in combination, it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the print service station of the present invention as recited in amended claim 124.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 124 and Freedman, taken either alone or in combination with Stefik et al. Therefore, claim 124 and all of the claims which are dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 168-171 are added to the present application. Claims 168-171 are dependent on claim 124 and include limitations which have been cancelled from claim 124. Claims 168-171 are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 124 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claims 168-171.

CLAIM FEE

The present application as pending prior to entry of this Amendment includes one (1) independent claim and thirty-nine (39)

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total claims. The number of claims after entry of this Amendment is one (1) independent claim and forty-three (43) total claims. Submitted herewith is a Credit Card Authorization Form in the amount of \$200.00 for the submission of four (4) total claims above the highest number of total claims for which payment was previously made. If any additional fees are due, or if any overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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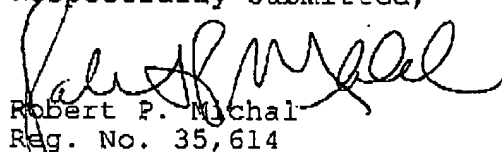
Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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